



June 27, 2014

To: Executive Board

Subject: **Environmental Sustainability Management System (ESMS) Update**

Recommendation

Receive and file an update on Foothill Transit's ESMS program at the Arcadia operations and maintenance facility.

Analysis

In 2010, Foothill Transit was accepted into the 2011 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) ESMS Institute for transit agencies. An ESMS Core Team, consisting of four staff and one contractor employee, was sent to the rigorous training in Roanoke, Virginia administered by Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) over the course of 18 months. Virginia Tech aided Foothill Transit in the development and implementation of an ESMS at the Arcadia operations and maintenance facility, following the ISO 14001 standards.

Following staffing changes in early 2013 and a change in contracted service providers at Arcadia, Foothill Transit sent three new Core Team members to the FTA sponsored training in 2013. The training involved four workshops from August 2013 through June 2014.

Foothill Transit's ESMS program for the Arcadia operations and maintenance facility was ISO 14001 Certified in April 2013. The certification is valid for three years subject to favorable findings from an annual surveillance audit. Foothill Transit is among very few transit agencies in the nation operating a transit maintenance facility under world-class ISO 14001 standards.

As required by the ESMS program, each year the Core Team identifies daily operational activities at the maintenance facility that have an impact on the environment. These activities are defined as "environmental aspects". All actual and potential environmental aspects, from bus washing to disposal of batteries, are considered. Then, a select number of activities are chosen as "significant environmental aspects." These aspects are critically focused on and objectives and targets are developed to mitigate each one.

Since implementation of the ESMS program at Arcadia, Foothill Transit's environmental performance has improved. Following are some notable environmental aspects that are being mitigated:

- Reduction in compressed natural gas (CNG) releases – Retraining on and posting of Standard Operating Procedures for fuel has prevented fueling accidents



- Reduction of Contaminated Fluids – Analysis and evaluation of cleaning solvent use and inventory help eliminate 19 gallons of toxic products
- Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions – Installation of Solar Panels at the Arcadia and Pomona facilities reduce use of electricity by 22 percent
- Storm Water Pollution Training - 100 percent of Arcadia staff have been trained on Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
- Idle Reduction – Establishment of an Idle Policy has reduced engine idling time by 19 percent

A surveillance audit of the Arcadia ESMS program was performed last February and the auditor noted seven non-conformances. In May, a follow-up audit determined the seven non-conformances were resolved and settled, meaning Foothill Transit's ESMS program conforms to the ISO Standards.

Budget Impact

The certification is valid until 2016 and requires two annual surveillance audits, each at a cost of \$4,400. The cost of the surveillance audits for FY 2014-2015 is included in the adopted FY 2015 Business Plan and Budget.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Roland M. Cordero.

Roland M. Cordero
Director of Maintenance & Vehicle Technology

A blue ink signature of Doran J. Barnes.

Doran J. Barnes
Executive Director